

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1977 - 1978

14 November 1977

DOCUMENT 374/77

ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 15, 16 and 17 November 1977

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English Edition

PE 50.808

In accordance with the directives on the conduct of Question Time, questions may be answered only if the questioner is present or has notified the President in writing, before Question Time begins, of the name of his substitute.

Questions to the Commission which have not been answered on Wednesday for lack of time are called on Thursday. If the questioners are unable to attend, they may of course, notify the President in writing of the name of their substitute before the questions are called on Thursday.

1. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-270/77)

Subject : Proposal for a Fifth Directive (Participation by workers)

Can the Commission give a progress report on the new proposal for a Fifth Directive and state whether it will be able to abide by its undertaking to submit it by the end of December?

2. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-273/77)

Subject : The Community's Data Processing and Electronics Components Industry

Will the Commission state what steps it is taking to update the Multiannual Research and Development Programme for the Community's Data Processing and Electronic Component Industries, contained in its communication COM (76) 524 final, and requested by Parliament in its amended Motion for Resolution on the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, DOC 235/77? (1)

(1) OJ No C 241 of 10.10.1977, p. 41

3. Question by Mr DE CLERCQ (H-277/77)

Subject : Open tenders

The provisions of the EEC Treaty relating to the liberalization of public contracts are hardly ever applied by the Member States. Can the Commission say how it intends to combat such anti-Community practices especially as the Community contributes to the capital needed for the realization of public works?

4. Question by Mrs EWING (H-284/77)

Subject : Products Liability

Will the Commission make a statement on the question of products liability and the possibility of legislation being enacted by the Community on this subject, bearing in mind the importance of this matter to manufacturers, insurers and consumers?

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5. Question by Mr COINTAT (H-274/77)

Subject : Devaluation of the green franc

In the light of its proposals for a gradual reduction in compensatory amounts in order to regulate intra-Community agricultural trade, how does the Commission view the need to devalue the Green Franc, and to what level should it be devalued?

6. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-275/77)

Subject : Distortions in canned and cooked meat trade

Is the Commission planning to take action to eliminate the distortions in trade in canned and cooked meat between Ireland and the U.K. which result from monetary compensatory amounts and are to the detriment of Irish meat plants?

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7. Question by Lord Bruce of DONINGTON (H-291/77)

Subject : Sale of butter to the USSR

Has the attention of the Commission been drawn to a report in the Dutch newspaper "VOLKSRANT" of 30 September 1977 that large quantities of butter, sold from EEC countries at very low prices to the USSR, have re-entered the Common Market through other Eastern Bloc countries, and whether it is in a position to confirm the accuracy of the report?

8. Question by Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-294/77)*

Subject : Financing of food aid

Will the Commission state what proportion of the dairy co-responsibility levy is to be used for financing of food aid, and explain why it considers it justifiable to use the levy's proceeds for a purpose which has hitherto been financed from Community resources ?

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*) Pursuant to Paragraph 2 of the guidelines for the conduct of Question Time, this question will not be taken if Parliament decides to retain item 252 on the agenda.

9. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-295/77)

Subject: Criticism of 'Le Monde' in 'EG-Magazin'

Is it true that, as a result of an article in the October 1977 issue of the German-language 'EG-Magazin' criticizing the French daily newspaper 'Le Monde', action is to be taken by the Commission against the editor responsible, and is it true that, as reported in 'Die Welt' on 20 October 1977, a Member of the Commission, alleged to be a shareholder of 'Le Monde' himself, has pressed for the dismissal of the editor concerned?

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10. Question by Mr CIFARELLI (H-278/77)

Subject: Migrant workers in France

Does the Commission consider the recent decision of the French Government to suspend for 3 years from 1 October the immigration of the families of foreign workers already resident in France, to issue no more work permits, and to offer 10,000 francs to any worker resident in France for 5 years who agrees to return to his own country for good, consistent with the provisions of the EEC Treaty on the free movement of workers?

11. Question by Mr DAMSEAUX (H-288/77)

Subject: Community aid for managerial staff

The European Social Fund is at present financing a pilot scheme whose object is to aid unemployed managerial staff and it appears that the scheme, which at present involves 20 unemployed managerial staff in Eastern France, could be extended and implemented throughout the Community. Could the Commission state the assessment criteria for the pilot scheme?

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12. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-272/77)

Subject : Energy

The Federal Republic of Germany and the USA recently signed an agreement for the exchange of information about the current research of each nation into coal liquefaction and gasification. In view of the Commission's proposal for Community support for demonstration projects in this area contained in COM (77) 187 final, what steps is the Commission taking in conjunction with USA, Japan, Israel and other non-Community states to achieve coordinated research and development and the avoidance of unnecessary duplication in all areas of energy activity, either within the framework of the International Energy Agency or outside it?

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13. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-279/77)

Subject : EEC-Japanese Trade

Is it possible to make a full statement on the results of the recent visit of the President of the Commission to Japan?

14. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-283/77)

Subject : Sri Lanka Tea Industry

To ask the Commission whether, in future meetings of the EEC-Sri Lanka Joint Committee, they will bear in mind the serious problems faced by the Sri Lankan tea industry and whether they envisage measures being taken to improve this situation.

15. Question by Mr DONDELINGER (H-289/77)*

Subject: Competition from the COMECON countries in the iron and steel sector

Does not the Commission think that if we are to effectively protect employment in the Community's iron and steel industry it would be advisable to conclude with the COMECON countries, whose steel exports to the Community, especially the Benelux countries, the United Kingdom and France, continue to increase, the same voluntary restraint arrangements as those concluded and successfully applied with JAPAN?

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* Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the guidelines for the conduct of Question Time, this question will not be taken if Parliament decides to retain item 236 on the agenda.

16. Question by Mr FLÄMIG (H-290/77)

Subject : Fast breeder reactors

It has been reported that, earlier this year, the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority carried out an experiment on the 17-year old Dounreay Fast Reactor by which the nuclear fuel elements were allowed to heat up to over 1000 degrees Centigrade, beyond the melting point of the stainless steel cladding, but that no explosion took place as a result of contact between the fuel elements and the liquid sodium coolant. Will the Commission state clearly what exactly happened in this experiment which has most important safety implications for the future construction of fast breeder reactors in the Community?

17. Question by Mr DURIEUX (H-292/77)

Subject: The Commission's position on enlargement of the
Communities

What part was played by differences of opinion on the institutional and economic consequences of the accession of the three applicant countries in the Commission's decision not to forward to the Council the interim report on enlargement and the problems facing Mediterranean agriculture

18. Question by Mr LEONARDI (H-296/77)

Subject: JET Project

In view of the radical change of approach to the siting of JET that has taken place over the past two years, does the Commission not consider that it would be as well to draw up a written report, simply chronicling the decision-making process which led up to it?

19. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-297/77)

Subject : Finance of the C.A.P.

Bearing in mind the current studies within the Commission on the application of the European Unit of Account (EUA) to the Common Agricultural Policy, what practical problems does the Commission anticipate?

20. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-301/77)

Subject : Steel industry

What recent discussions on the future of the steel industry has the Commission had with Ministers of the Community and with what result ?

21. Question by Mr LAGORCE (H-306/77)

Subject : Cereals shortage in Upper Volta

How has the Commission responded, or does it intend to respond, to the appeal for international solidarity made some months ago by Upper Volta to combat a shortage in cereals so alarming that the country faces a serious threat of famine?

22. Question by Mr PRESCOTT (H-310/77)

Subject : Hoffman La Roche appeal to the European court

Has the Commission been informed as to the date of Hoffman La Roche's appeal to the European Court against their fine? Is the Commission still giving legal assistance to Mr Adams in his appeal against the Swiss authorities' conviction for industrial espionage and will the Commission make a statement?

23. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-311/77)

Subject : European Motor Industry

To what extent is the Commission consulting the European Motor Industry in evolving industrial policy and in view of their importance to the economies of Member States does the Commission include in their consultation those European firms in which there is US investment?

24. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-312/77) *

Subject : Survey on scientific research

Is it true that the Commission has recently conducted a public opinion survey on the question of scientific research; how much did this survey cost; what purpose has been served as a result of conducting this survey and what other surveys of this type has the Commission recently conducted ?

* Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the guidelines for the conduct of Question Time, this question will not be taken if Parliament decides to retain item 248 on the agenda.

25. Question by Mr PISONI (H-314/77)

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Sickness insurance of officials of Community Institutions in Germany

The sickness insurance of officials of Community Institutions is not recognized at law in Germany. German universities require students to be insured against sickness. Since students are usually covered by the insurance of their parents, it follows that children of Community officials attending German universities are obliged to bear the cost of an additional insurance.

Is the Commission aware of this fact and what measures, if any, does it intend to take to eliminate this discrimination?

26. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-318/77)

Subject: Reduction of third countries' fishing quotas in Community waters

Does the Commission intend to reduce the fishing quotas of third countries in Community territorial waters until such time as negotiations with these countries have been concluded and does it intend at the same time to carry out inspections to ensure observance of these quotas?

27. Question by Mr JENSEN (H-319/77)

Subject: National fishing zones

After the United Kingdom's introduction for an indefinite period with effect from 1 November 1977 of a national prohibited zone called the 'pout box' which discriminates directly against industrial fishing on the part of the other Member States, can the Commission, in its capacity as guardian of the Treaty, state whether it intends to institute proceedings against the United Kingdom before the Court of Justice for setting up a protected area where such is not adequately justified on biological grounds?

28. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-322/77)

Subject : Illiteracy in the Community

Does the Commission have any information relating to the extent of illiteracy in the Community and, if not, does it intend to investigate the situation and propose special measures (beyond those contained in par. 3, sub b) of Recommendation 77/467/EEC on 6 July 1977 (1) to combat the problem ?

(1) OJ Nr. 180, 20.7.1977, page 18

29. Question by Mr GUERLIN (H-323/77)

Subject: Criticism of 'LE MONDE' in 'EG MAGAZIN'

What precautions has the Commission taken to prevent further attacks on a French newspaper, noted for its reliability, in an official publication of one of the European Community's information offices? Has any Commissioner who happens to be a national of the Member State in which the unjustified attack was published approached European parliamentarians or the Commission with a view to preventing the latter from repudiating the article in question and thus casting grave suspicion on one of his colleagues?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

30. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-269/77)

Subject : Financing of wide inland waterways in Europe

In the context of the Community's efforts to develop a system of inland waterways and in the light of the generally recognized need to complete at an early date the wide waterway network linking the North Sea, the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and the Ruhr basin, does the Council intend to make a financial contribution to these European projects by means of a direct grant from the Community budget, direct subsidies, loan guarantees and interest rebates, in particular to build a new Rhine-Rhône canal?

31. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-280/77)

Subject : Gibraltarians and the EEC

Bearing in mind that 20,000 Gibraltarians have been effectively imprisoned since 1964; that Spanish workers have been deprived of the right to work in Gibraltar for all those years since 1964; that this is against the basic principles of the EEC, namely, the sanctity of basic human rights and the freedom of movement of all citizens; and in view of these circumstances, will the Council give an assurance that this problem must be resolved before formal discussions are begun with Spain on her application for membership of the EEC?

32. Question by Mrs EWING (H-286/77)

Subject : Fishing Policy

Will the Council make a statement on the latest developments in the Communities' fishing policy and problems associated therewith.

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33. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-287/77)

Subject: Security of the Supplies of the Member States

Would the Council state what consultations have been undertaken between the Member States to establish to their satisfaction that the vital supplies of fuel and raw materials of the Member States are secure, with specific reference to the obligations imposed by Article 224 of the EEC Treaty?

34. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-293/77)

Subject : Community's Relations with China

Has the Council yet given a mandate to the Commission to begin negotiations with the aim of concluding a trade agreement with the People's Republic of China ?

35. Question by Mr PRICE (H-298/77)

Subject : Short-term arrangements for the export of agricultural products

To ask the Council when it intends to grant a mandate to the Commission to extend the short-term arrangements for the export of agricultural products beyond 31 December 1977, especially in regard to arrangements for potatoes which constitute 30 % of all exports from Cyprus to the Community.

36. Question by Mr TERRENOIRE (H-299/77)

Subject: The general economic situation

Does the Council intend giving consideration to the new Commission guidelines aimed at stimulating domestic consumption in order to revive the economy?

37. Question by Mr HOFFMANN (H-300/77)

Subject : The Middle East

In view of the Declaration on the Middle East by the Nine on 29 June 1977, recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to a homeland, and the support given by the President-in-Office of the Council to the joint declaration of the United States and the Soviet Union, how, in the context of the Euro-Arab Dialogue and the ten preferential agreements concluded with various Arab countries, does the Council intend to translate its positions of principle into recognition of the PLO as an official negotiating partner of the European Communities?

38. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-302/77)

Subject : Discussions on the future of the steel industry

What recent discussions on the future of the steel industry have there been among ministers of the Community and with what result?

39. Question by Mr CAILLAVET (H-307/77)

Subject : Delay in decisions on EEC loans

Can the Council give some indication of the political and technical problems which so far - and notably at its October meeting in Luxembourg - have prevented it from implementing the decision of principle on EEC loans adopted by the European Council six months ago in Rome? Is not this delay all the more regrettable since these loans could well give fresh impetus to joint policies and programmes?

40. Question by Mr DALYELL (H- 313/77)

Subject : Siting of JET

What has the Council learned about decisionmaking in the Community, as a result of the delay in reaching a conclusion about the siting of JET ?

41. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-315/77)

Subject : Security measures at airports

What mandate has the Council given to the Commission to look into effective security measures at airports within the Community, and to establish similar standards in the countries immediately surrounding the Community bearing in mind the need to consult the International Civil Aviation Organisation?

42. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-320/77) ²²

Subject: Harmful competition from third countries as a result of state aid to industrial undertakings

Is the Council aware of the adverse trend in certain third countries (including Norway and Sweden) towards giving state aid to industrial undertakings, the negative repercussions of which on the competitive position of Community undertakings are considerable, and does it intend to ask the Commission to introduce countermeasures in this field?

* Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the guidelines for the conduct of Question Time, this question will not be taken if Parliament decides to retain item 235 on the agenda.

43. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-321/77)

Subject : Aid to countries outside the framework of the Treaties

To ask the Council whether they propose to hold consultations as to the possibility of giving aid to countries outside the framework of the Treaties governing the Communities, in particular where such aid would not adversely affect the Communities' own economic interests.

QUESTIONS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NINE MEMBER STATES OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEETING IN POLITICAL COOPERATION

44. Question by Mr FLETCHER-COOKE (H-261/77)

Subject : Consular facilities for the Nine at Chieng-Mai

To ask the Foreign Ministers if the member governments of the Nine are prepared to establish, in the first instance for a five-year experimental period, joint consular facilities for the Nine at Chieng-Mai (Thailand) in the building at present used as a consulate by the British Government?

45. Question by Mrs EWING (H-285/77)

Subject : The Middle-East

Will the Ministers make a statement on their attitude towards attempts currently being undertaken to obtain a peaceful settlement in the Middle-East and in particular their views on statements made about the "legitimate aspirations of the Palastine peoples".

